

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of automatically applying a hang tag to an elongated object with a machine that is suitable for applying a securement strap to an object, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a hang tag having a slot defined therein;

aligning said hang tag with said machine so that, upon deployment of said machine, the securement strap is ejected from said machine so as to pass through said slot and attach said hang tag to said elongated object; and

deploying said machine so as to automatically apply said hang tag to said elongated object with said securement strap.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said elongated object is an electrical cord.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said elongated object is an electrical cord set.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said securement strap is a cable tie.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said slot is provided more than about 0.1 inches from any edge of said hang tag.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said slot is provided at least 0.15 inches from any edge of said hang tag.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said slot is elongated or substantially elongated.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said slot is rectangular or substantially rectangular.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said slot has at least one arcuate edge.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the tag is fixed in a stationary manner on the elongated object.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said slot has minimum dimensions of at least about 0.25 inches by at least about 1 inch.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said slot has minimum dimensions of at least about 0.312 inches by about 1.25 inches.

13. A method of automatically applying a hang tag to an elongated object with a machine that is suitable for applying a securement strap to an object, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a hang tag having a slot defined therein, wherein said slot has minimum dimensions of at least about 0.25 inches by at least about 1 inch;

aligning said hang tag with said machine so that, upon deployment of said machine, the securement strap is ejected from said machine so as to pass through said slot and attach said hang tag to said elongated object; and

deploying said machine so as to automatically apply said hang tag to said elongated object with said securement strap.

14. A hang tag capable of automatically being attached to an elongated object by a machine suitable for applying a securement strap to an object, the hang tag comprising:

a first surface, a second surface, and a slot defined therebetween, wherein said slot has minimum dimensions of at least about 0.25 inches by about 1 inch.

5           15. The hang tag of claim 14, wherein said slot is provided more than about 0.10 inches from any edge of said hang tag.

10           16. The hang tag of claim 14, wherein said slot is provided at least 0.15 inches from any edge of said hang tag.

15           17. The hang tag of claim 14, wherein said slot is elongated or substantially elongated.

            18. The hang tag of claim 17, wherein said slot is rectangular or substantially rectangular.

20           19. The hang tag of claim 18, wherein said slot has at least one arcuate edge.

25           20. The hang tag of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the hang tag is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polystyrene, polyolefins, polyphenylene, polycarbonate, polyvinylchloride, nylons, acrylics, aluminum, and combinations thereof.

30           21. The hang tag of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the hang tag is formed of a cross-laminated material.

35           22. The hang tag of claim 21, wherein the cross-laminated material includes a high density polyethylene.

            23. The hang tag of claim 14, further comprising a grommet reinforcing said slot.

24. The hang tag of claim 14, wherein said slot has minimum dimensions of at least about 0.312 inches by about 1.25 inches.

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25. An apparatus for automatically applying a hang tag having a slot therein to an elongated object by way of a securement strap, said apparatus comprising:

a mounting apparatus;

10 a tag template capable of receiving a hang tag, said tag template fixed to said mounting apparatus and having a first end and a second end, said tag template having an opening therein corresponding to a position where the slot of said hang tag can be placed when the hang tag is received in said tag template; and

15 a machine suitable for applying a securement strap to an object, said machine coupled to said mounting apparatus, said machine aligned so as to be capable of ejecting said securement strap in such a way that said securement strap can be threaded through the slot and around said elongated object.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a trough capable of receiving at least a portion of said elongated object, said trough having a first end separated from a second end, said trough coupled to said mounting apparatus so that the first end of said trough is positioned adjacent to the first end of said tag template and the second end of said trough is positioned adjacent to the second end of said tag template, the first end of said trough capable of receiving a first portion of said elongated object and the second end of said trough capable of receiving a second portion of said elongated object, such that, when an elongated object is received in said trough, a third portion of said elongated object can extend between the first end of the trough and the second end of the trough.